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OIA-50/78  
18 May 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Requirements and Evaluation Staff, NFAC

ATTENTION : [REDACTED]

SUBJECT : Examples of Civilian Applications of Satellite Imagery

1. In response to your memorandum dated 11 May, the Office of Imagery Analysis suggests the following topics to be considered as areas to expand into if the capacity exists.

2. In addition to grain harvests and narcotics which are already the subject of research by working groups (we are not sure about deep sea mining), we suggest topics such as:

- National disasters i.e., earthquakes, typhoons and cyclones, severe drought conditions, entomological outbreaks (locusts, gypsy moths)

- Industrial pollution of rivers and forests

- Dispersal of industries from traditional urban areas to rural areas

- Conversion of industries to the use of alternate fuels as a source of energy

- International terrorism i.e. camps, training facilities, equipment, communication

- Effects of petro dollars on improving standard of living in OPEC countries

3. Outside of prioritizing these topics or areas for collection and research, what can be said for one generally applies to all. From a photo collection point of view, they require extensive and in some instances timely coverage. This can detract from the primary mission of photo collection satellites as an intelligence gathering tool.

4. From the exploitation side of the house topics such as these have not been researched by intelligence analysts in the past and no or only limited expertise is available. The solution here is contracts with academic institutions or other government departments

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or the establishment of in house working groups. Without resource augmentation working groups are usually made up of analysts already taxed to supplying intelligence on foreign military or existing economic problems.

5. In addition to the absence of an analytic data base (experience) successful results are often adversely effected by the lack of historical or previous area coverage from which to draw comparisons.

6. If you wish further discussion contact the undersigned

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Executive Officer  
Imagery Analysis

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